

## **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Program Schedule and Milestones: Development of Nationwide Program Alternative**

May 2002-May 2012; extended to November 2013: Amended duration of nationwide programmatic agreement; new stipulation inserted to clarify NRCS' responsibilities to consult with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs).

2007: Survey to NRCS State Conservationists on the effectiveness of the existing nationwide programmatic agreement.

June 2009- July 2011: NRCS consults informally with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), intertribal organizations (including the United South and Eastern tribes (USET) and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO)), and other federal agencies.

May 2010: Survey to State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) on the operation of the existing nationwide programmatic agreement.

July 2010: Survey to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), Indian tribes, and NHOs on the operation of the existing nationwide programmatic agreement.

Summer 2010: ACHP Case Digest article announcing NRCS' intent to revise or replace the existing nationwide programmatic agreement.

(<http://www.achp.gov/docs/CaseDigestAug2010.pdf>)

July 2011: ACHP letter to NRCS recognizing intent to pursue a prototype agreement.

November-December 2011: NRCS formally initiates consultation with letters to NCSHPO, SHPOs, Indian tribes, THPOs, NHOs, intertribal organizations (including NATHPO and the National Congress of American Indians), and other preservation partners (including the National Trust for Historic Preservation).

December 2011: New ACHP/NRCS web page launched on the ACHP's website.

(<http://www.achp.gov/nrcs.html>)

December 2011- February 2012: Teleconferences with Indian tribes, THPOs, and NHOs.

December 2011- February 2012: Teleconferences with NCSHPO and SHPOs.

February- July 2012: Discussion and public outreach on approach and selection of program alternative. Fact sheet and relevant materials on NRCS' efforts circulated to professional organizations and provided at relevant conferences, including SWIAA, Indian Nations Conservation Association, National Association of Conservation Districts, and the Society for Historical Archaeology.

February- March 2012: NRCS/ACHP presentation at USET. NRCS requests volunteers to form SHPO and tribal working groups to advise on the development of the prototype programmatic agreement.

March 2012: NRCS presentation at NCSHPO Annual Meeting. NRCS circulates draft outline of prototype programmatic agreement to SHPO and tribal working groups.

May 2012: NRCS notice about efforts to develop prototype programmatic agreement published in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs newsletter.

June-July 2012: NRCS develops preliminary discussion draft prototype programmatic agreement; circulates to NCSHPO, and SHPO and tribal working groups.

July 2012-March 2013: NRCS considers comments on preliminary discussion draft and develops first draft prototype programmatic agreement.

April 2013- ongoing: NRCS circulates first draft to all SHPOs, Indian tribes, NHOs, interested parties, and the public. Consultation on first draft.

*Last Updated: June 4, 2013.*